



FORETOLD COLLABORATION

We are so excited you're joining us for this study! Just a quick word: this study is for anyone! #scripturedoodle is not about making a masterpiece; it is about worship. So let yourself have fun and enjoy the process. Our prayer for you this week is that you come face to face with the truth of God's word in relationship to fear. May the scriptures expose fear for the lie that it is. With God our fears shall have no power over us, and His word is the best tool to help us achieve FREEDOM over FEAR.

DOODLE IT

1. Read through the verses of the day and choose one to doodle.
2. Choose one key word in that verse that brings a picture to mind.
3. Begin drawing that thing or image that comes to mind.
4. Write the verse in or around your picture and add color if you desire.
5. Share your doodles on Instagram and Facebook using #scripturedoodle so we can cheer you on!!

MONDAY: WHO

Savior + Messiah Luke 1:32-33
A descendant of Jesse Isaiah 11:1-10
The tribe of Judah Luke 3:23-34

TUESDAY: WHAT

The birth of Jesus Isaiah 9:6
His birth takes place Luke 2:1-7

WEDNESDAY: WHEN

A time is coming Jeremiah 23:5
A decree foretold Daniel 9:25
It Happens Luke 2: 1-2

THURSDAY: WHERE

Bethlehem foretold Micah 5:2
His birth in Bethlehem Matthew 2:1-6
From the tribe of Judah Genesis 49:10

FRIDAY: HOW + WHY

A virgin girl Isaiah 7:14
Fulfilled in Luke 1:26-38
Why He came Isaiah 9:2-7
To save the world Luke 2:10

DAY 1: **WHO**

Did you know that there are over 300 prophecies found throughout the Old Testament that are revealed, confirmed, and fulfilled in the person of Jesus? After Creation, Adam and Eve lived in peace with God in the garden of Eden, but upon being deceived by Satan, they chose to break God's commandment, and thus brought sin into the world. In that same chapter (Genesis 3), we get a taste of the first prophecy concerning Jesus -

one day, someone will come, from the seed of the woman, and defeat the devil and his work.

It is incredible to think that the Triune God already knew at that moment that payment for sin would have to be made so that God could once again live at peace with His people. As history was revealed through the millennia of the Old Testament, God was at work through the priests, prophets, and kings reminding his chosen people that one day, the Savior would come and redeem them; a Savior who's lineage could be traced all the way through Judaism's heritage.

John's account of Jesus as the Word is a wonderful place to point people to this Advent season. Instead of tracing Jesus' lineage through his human ancestry (how Matthew's gospel starts), He begins His gospel using a cultural term for a philosophical idea, "logos", that the intended Greek speaking audience would immediately recognize as part of their understanding of what existed at the beginning of the universe. Right off the bat, John wanted to communicate that Jesus was more than a renewed Old Testament concept (God's people met Him at the Tabernacle. It was God's chosen dwelling place, until the Temple was built. See verses 14-18 of chapter 1); indeed, He was God himself.

Of special note is the way our English Bibles translate John 1:1... "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." While that clearly communicates a picture we can understand—Jesus has always existed coeternally with the Father and the Spirit, and Jesus is also God—the original text says it this way... "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and God was the Word." This emphasis provided by John was to make his readers aware that the Jesus they heard about and were hearing about was not only claiming to be God, but the same Jesus, who of less than noble birth, growing up as a Nazarene carpenter within a Jewish worldview, was fulfilling hundreds of ancient prophecies as God made man!

Jesus is not half God, half man, or only divine, or only human, but was actually fully God and fully man.

So His divine status as the Son of God indicated that He was indeed God, but the more difficult concept to grasp was how Jesus fit into Judaism's monotheistic understanding of one God. Deuteronomy 6:4 declares that the LORD is one. That is still true thousands of years later when John connects the dots by declaring that Jesus didn't only claim to be the LORD, but the LORD, the God of Israel, claimed to be Jesus. He became flesh and dwelt among us (verse 14); this is paradoxical! Instead of God's people having to go to the Tabernacle to meet with the Lord, offering sacrifices for their sin, God, through Jesus, has provided the ultimate, final sacrifice—Himself—and has now come to meet with us. Thanks be to God for the gift of His Son, Jesus, the Anointed One!

-Written By: Mark Rhodes



THEN

A shoot
will

come

UP

from the
stump of

JESSE

from his
roots a branch
will

BEAR

FRUIT.

And a

LITTLE

CHILD

will

lead

them.

=Isaiah 11:1-6

DAY 2: **WHAT**

“Christ” was not Jesus’ last name. Rather, it was the title given to, reserved for, and foretold about him. It means “Anointed One” – the Jews knew this Greek word to mean “Messiah”. Luke 2:11 merges two major names and roles of God (found in the Old Testament) into one incredible combination: “For today there has been born to you a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.” This verse holds specific titles reserved only for a divine being—yet the angel announced them, referring to a baby! Explained a little differently, it would say “today there has been born the perfect sacrifice, who is the Anointed One, the Master over all.” When applied to Jesus, this means He literally came to earth as the one chosen to completely fulfill the law and thereby satisfy its demands due to sin. Because He was fully divine and fully human, He not only had the divine power to forgive sins, but the sole ability to become the sacrifice for sins Himself. In other words, by paying the price with his own body and blood, he removed the necessity of the Jewish sacrificial system, whereby animals (which were sinless) temporarily atoned for the sins of God’s people, but never in a lasting, final way. The prophet Jeremiah hinted at this, and called it the New Covenant—where God would write His laws on the hearts and minds of His people, not just on stone tablets. If God had not provided the perfect, sinless substitute sacrifice, then we all would still be dead in our sins, and the New Covenant would never have superseded the Old Covenant.

What was Jesus anointed for? Why was his birth so significant?

He was born to die! His mission was to seek and save the lost, and He came to serve by giving His life as a ransom for many.

The greatest good took place at the expense of the greatest evil – the death of one man provided life for all who would believe in Him. He became sin, though He was sinless, so that we might become His righteousness. He was born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem us from the curse of the law, by becoming the curse for us. This overwhelming reality caused Paul, in 1 Timothy, to proclaim “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Now that’s a trustworthy saying - accept it fully!

Throughout church history, the two sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper have remained central to Christians’ worship, and both primarily exist to point to Jesus’ death! Paul declares this in Romans 6 when he says “don’t you know that all of us who were baptized were baptized into his death?” Jesus, at the Last Supper made clear that the bread was His body and the drink in the cup was His blood; these also signify His death on the cross, where His hands, feet, and side were pierced for us, and His blood was shed for us. So this Christmas season, we remember that Jesus, the Anointed One, set apart to die in our place on the cross for our sins, was born as the Lamb of God, who came to take away the sin of the world!

-Written By: Mark Rhodes

For a child has been born

FOR US TO US

and he is named

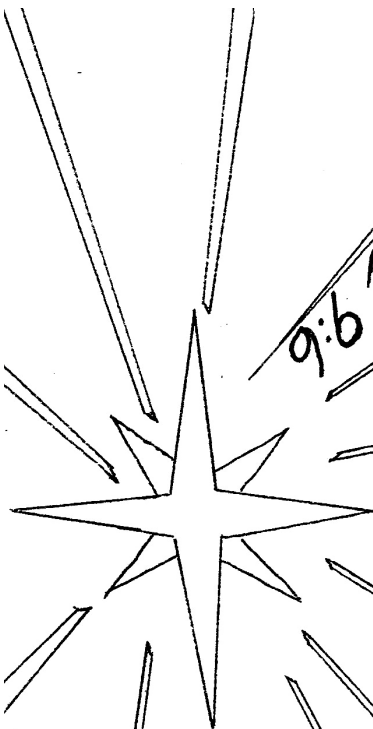
and he is named
born from TO US
Mighty God
Wonderful
Counselor
and he is named
born from TO US

Everlasting

Father

Prince
of Peace

Isaiah 9:6



DAY 3: **WHEN**

Back in Genesis 3, God first explains to Adam and Eve that one of her offspring will “strike the head of the serpent;” that is, Satan will be crushed, though he strikes the heel of Eve’s offspring. As Randy Alcorn put it: “Satan thought he crippled (bruised heel) Jesus on the cross, but the resurrection fatally wounded (bruised head) Satan’s power.” Thousands of years later, Jesus comes as the one who crushes Satan to provide the victory over the curse pronounced by God in the garden. But why thousands of years later?

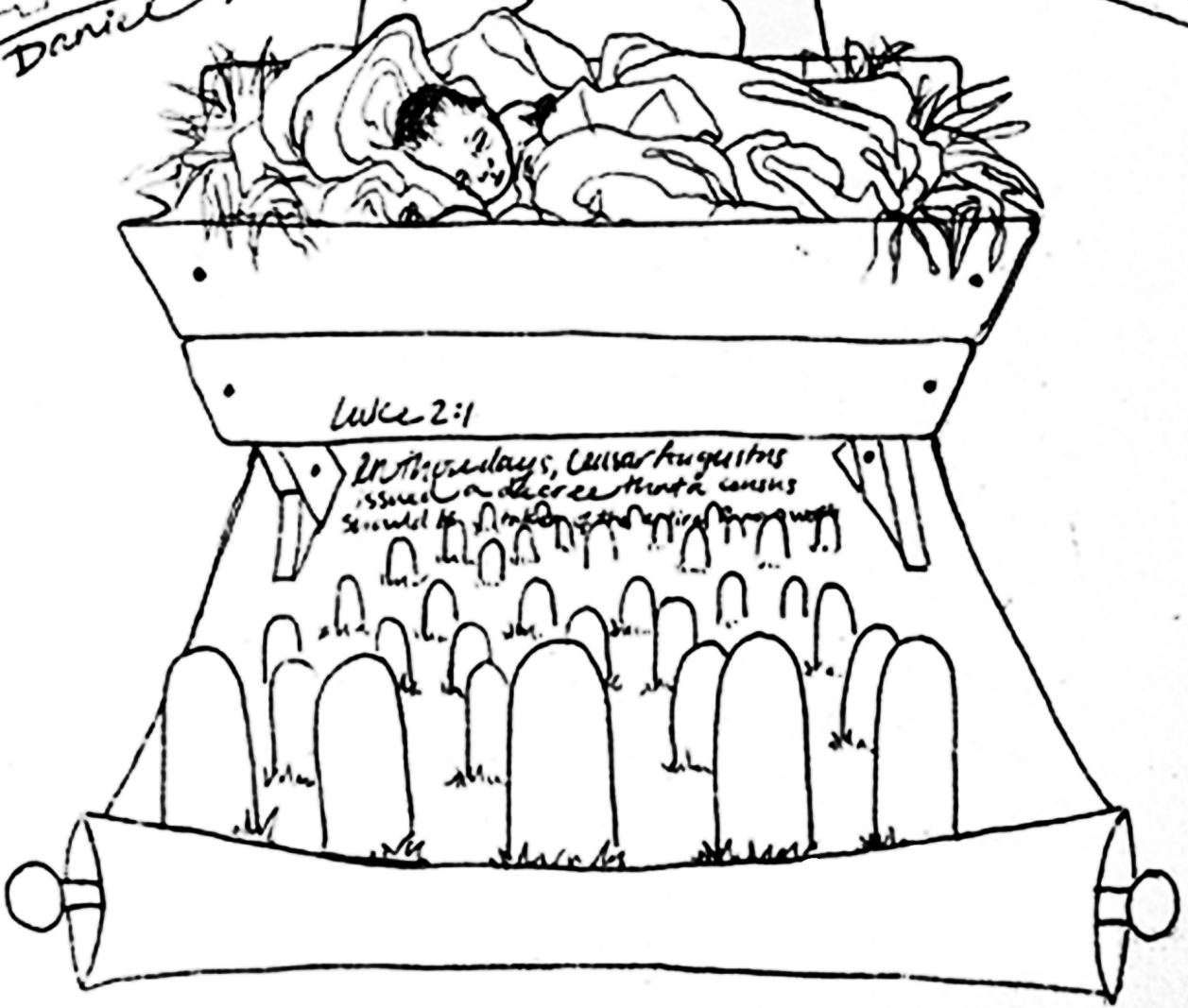
Paul shares the key: “but when the time had fully come, God sent His son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those who were under the law” (Galatians 4:4).

The timing was just right in God’s greater redemptive story - there was necessary waiting that needed to take place after Adam and Eve left the garden, primarily so God’s people would develop faith.

Jesus was the perfect fulfillment of the law; a king, a priest, a prophet, the Passover, the sacrifice, the Bread of Life, and the Word, and “without time to develop these ideas throughout history and through the writings of the Scriptures, we would never have understood the depths of the Godhead.” (Randy Alcorn, Why Didn’t Jesus come earlier in history?) The Jews were constantly in a cycle of obedience and disobedience, from the time after Noah all the way through the 400 silent years, right before John the Baptist came on the scene. God’s people had shrunk to “the remnant,” where all hope of salvation and God’s promises seemed lost. Yet He continually revealed that He would send His Son to save His people from their sins. Why? Well, “what if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory?” (Romans 9:22-23) That is exactly what He did, out of His love for us; God is rich in mercy, not wanting any to perish!

It has also been noted that Jesus came when He did for political and social purposes—the Roman government was reigning intact over Jerusalem at the turn of the century (and millennium), providing easy travel for the Gospel message to spread quickly throughout the empire. Further, with the established Greek culture and “common language,” the message of Jesus’ death and resurrection also spread quickly through a vernacular that reached multiple people groups. Perhaps most exciting, God delivered a specific prophecy through Daniel (9:24-27) that points to the exact time of the birth and life of Jesus—the “Seventy Weeks” starts in Nehemiah with a promise to rebuild Jerusalem, and after 69 weeks (which are really sets of years: $69 \times 7 = 483$ years), there is the coming of an Anointed One (the Messiah!). This Anointed One would eventually be “cut off and have nothing” - most likely a reference to Jesus’ death. Daniel was a Jewish prophet that wrote half of his book in Aramaic, the language of the Gentiles, and half in Hebrew, the language of the Jews. Even this observation reveals that Daniel’s prophecy—500 years before the birth of Jesus—was and is for all people, because Jesus’s death atones for the sins of all people; Jews and Gentiles. If the shedding of His blood was only for the Jews, then the “time would not have fully come.” God, through the Anointed One, Jesus, broke the rigid requirements of the sacrificial system, so that anyone who has faith (by Jewish heritage or Gentile knowledge-based belief) can be saved from their sins if they confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead!

-Written By: Mark Rhodes



DAY 4: **WHERE**

In Luke 2, we read that Joseph took pregnant Mary with him to leave Nazareth and return to Bethlehem, as everyone living in the Roman empire had to return to their home of origin to register for Caesar's census. By following this civic duty, Joseph's obedience paved the way for Mary to give birth to Jesus not in Nazareth, but in the city of David, known as Bethlehem. Why is this significant? Multiple verses:

2 Samuel 7:12-16

1 Chronicles 17:11-13

Psalm 89:35-37; 110:1; 132:11; 138:1-6

Jeremiah 23:5-6; 33:14-15

Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:24-25

all point out that God's promise to David was to have one from his throne who would rule over all. Each of these verses were fulfilled with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

God's ways are not our ways, and He often does things against the social order of the day;

think about these examples...the older serves the younger (Esau and Jacob), a Moabitess is directly linked and added into the lineage of Jesus (Ruth was "kinsmen-redeemed" by Boaz, and she was a foreigner brought into God's family), the youngest son is selected to be king, not the oldest (Jesse's sons - David was chosen), an entire Gentile city is saved when they repent the first time, much to the prophet's chagrin (Jonah preached and Ninevah repented), and one of the smallest clans of Judah, not the biggest, was chosen to hold the honor of seeing Jesus' birth (In all Jerusalem, Bethlehem was God's chosen place for the birth of Christ). Indeed, often what God does seems foolish to the world, for "the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18ff). The greatest "backwards" move God could make was offering Himself to pay the penalty for sin! Yet that's exactly what Jesus did, laying down His life willingly for our salvation...and that life began in the City of David, according to God's promise to the man "after God's own heart."

We also see God's favor in Bethlehem through history: the city was where Rachel was buried (Jacob's chosen wife - the one he loved); Ruth gleaned from the field next to Bethlehem, as an outsider to the Jews; David was anointed king by the prophet Samuel there, bringing together a great prophet and a great king (foreshadowing Jesus' role as prophet and king). So Bethlehem has historical elements of God's grace toward His chosen people, to carry on the lineage from Abraham, all the way to Jesus. When we think of Bethlehem, we should remember that God is faithful in carrying out His promises, and the fact that Jesus was born in Bethlehem proves His timeless love for His people, then and now!

-Written By: Mark Rhodes



DAY 5: **HOW + WHY**

Christianity is different from all other religions. Though Jesus came as the “prophet” who revealed God, God’s plan for the world, and how everyone must participate in that plan if they want to receive benefits from being involved in that religion, He didn’t only share a revelation about what people needed to do to be better, find happiness, and ultimately have peace in the afterlife.

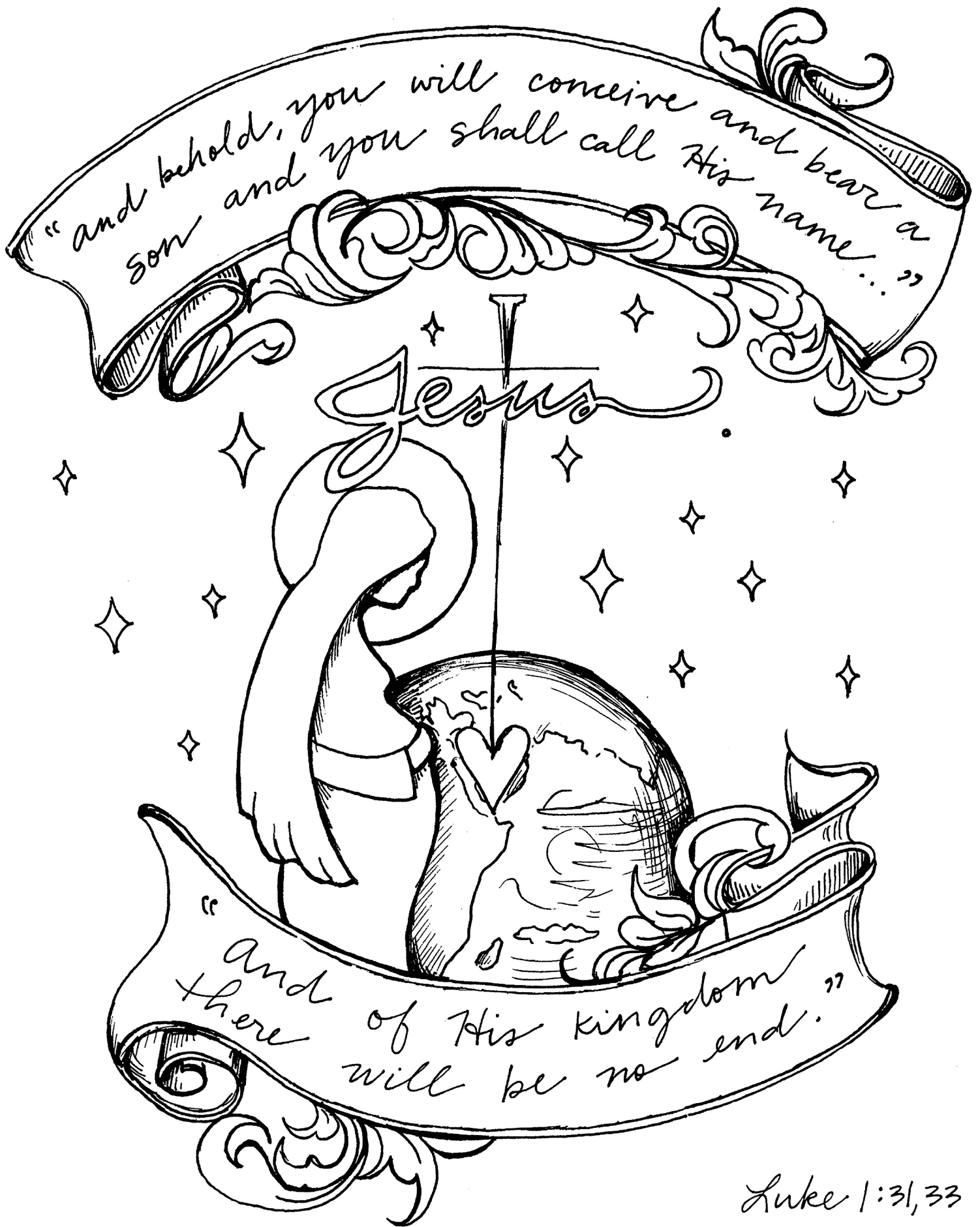
On the contrary, Jesus proved that no one will find true happiness and peace unless they believe that all the “required work” on humanity’s part was already completed in His sacrifice on the cross.

It’s been said that in other religions, if you identify with them, you have to DO things to be accepted. With Christianity, everything has been DONE for you already – you simply believe.

This is why Jesus was sent from the Father to earth, to be born and live a life as a man, pay the penalty for sin as a man, and be raised from the dead as a man, so that other humans could receive His righteousness. He was born in a 1st century Jewish home, where as a son to Mary and Joseph he would grow up in the ways of God’s chosen people, understanding the sacrificial system that God set up in the Old Testament. Animals were sacrificed, so that their blood would be shed, covering the sins of the people. God, in His mercy, granted life to His people, and provided a “scapegoat” to bear the weight of the sins of His people. Hebrews 9 tells us that the sacrificial system was part of God’s covenant with His people, but was never the full picture of God’s desire for His people. Jesus said he came to fulfill the law, not abolish it. What does that mean? Well, the Law (found in the first 5 books of the Bible) was designed to kill! There was no way anyone could uphold every commandment God gave, so death was required of those unworthy to maintain their part of the Covenant. So when Jesus came to earth, He knew that by fulfilling the Law, he would have to die, rather than find another way to fulfill (or abolish) God’s Law. He died, removing the wall of hostility, bringing God’s people into an intimate relationship with God. Remember, until Jesus was born, the Jews were not allowed into God’s presence (He dwelt in the Holy of Holies, in the Tabernacle and Temple). This mirrors when Israelites were not allowed to touch Mt. Sinai when Moses received the 10 commandments, or otherwise they would die because of their sin and lack of holiness.

God’s perfect, holy, spotless nature is hidden, and could not be revealed unless He Himself became the solution for the problem of sin.

Now, consider how Jesus fulfilled the role of the holy, spotless Lamb, who John the Baptist claimed would take away the sin of the world! Instead of God’s people dying if they attempt to touch the mountain and go up to meet God, God’s Son chose to die, coming down from the mountain (Calvary) to meet us. Instead of continual animal sacrifices being offered for temporary purification of sin, God’s Son offered Himself as the sacrifice, “offering Himself once for all into the Holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by the means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption” (Hebrews 9:12). This is how Jesus saves: He (who knew no sin) became sin for us, so that we might become righteous in His place. He willingly shed His blood so that sins could be forgiven. This Christmas season, remember that Jesus Christ, the chosen Anointed One, had to be born as a human, so that in God’s mercy toward us all, Christ would die on our behalf, so that we could have a relationship with God. Praise Jesus!



Luke 1:31,33